

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A drive circuit 21 that controls a switching device 23 ON/OFF and a soft cutoff command circuit that gradually decreases the gate terminal voltage of the switching device 23 when short circuit of the switching device 23 is detected. Additionally, an ON-pulse retention command circuit 11 retains the output of the drive circuit 21 ON when the gate terminal voltage is judged to have exceeded a specified value by a gate voltage judgment comparator 16 that detects the gate terminal voltage of the switching device 23.